

# *Touching Lives*



U.S. Department of Labor  
Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Our mission is to empower faith-based and community organizations as they help their neighbors enter, succeed and thrive in the workforce. We target those organizations who are trusted institutions providing valuable services, but who may not be collaborating or partnering with government programs. To accomplish our mission, we initiate innovative partnerships between faith-based and community organizations which can address the needs of the most disadvantaged members of our communities, beyond the government's "know-how." We educate organizations about local opportunities to collaborate and about opportunities to participate in national grant programs. We eliminate barriers to fair treatment of faith-based and community organizations within the Department's programs. We educate local government officials and administrators about how they can integrate faith-based and community organizations into service delivery and decision making processes.

# *and Communities*

“Government has a solemn responsibility to help meet the needs of poor Americans and distressed neighborhoods, but it does not have a monopoly on compassion.

America is richly blessed by the diversity and vigor of neighborhood healers: civic, social, charitable, and religious groups. These quiet heroes lift people's lives in ways that are beyond government's know-how, usually on shoestring budgets, and they heal our nation's ills one heart and one act of kindness at a time.

The indispensable and transforming work of faith-based and other charitable service groups must be encouraged. Government cannot be replaced by charities, but it can and should welcome them as partners. We must heed the growing consensus across America that successful government social



programs work in fruitful partnership with community-serving and faith-based organizations — whether run by Methodists, Muslims, Mormons, or good people of no faith at all.

The paramount goal must be compassionate results, not compassionate intentions. Federal policy should reject the failed formula of towering, distant bureaucracies that too often prize process over performance. We must be outcome-based, insisting on success and steering resources to the effective and to the inspired. Also, we must always value the bedrock principles of pluralism, nondiscrimination, evenhandedness and neutrality. Private and charitable groups, including religious ones, should have the fullest opportunity permitted by law to compete on a level playing field, so long as they achieve valid public purposes, like curbing crime, conquering addiction, strengthening families, and overcoming poverty.”

- President George W. Bush

*Rallying the Armies of Compassion: President Bush's  
Blueprint for the Faith-Based and Community Initiative*



# Outreach and Technical Assistance

CFBCI conducts outreach to educate faith-based and community organizations about national grants programs as well as local opportunities to collaborate. There are two basic types of federal funding: formula funding, which goes directly to state governments, and discretionary funding, which may be awarded to non-profits, businesses, or government agencies. The following Department of Labor agencies and offices regularly release discretionary grants: the Employment and Training Administration, Veteran's Employment and Training Services, Office of Disability and Employment Policy, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, the Women's Bureau, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Current and past grant opportunities from these agencies are available on CFBCI's website, [www.dol.gov/cfbci/funding.htm](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/funding.htm). CFBCI works with each of these agencies to

ensure their grant solicitations are written in an accessible manner. Advice on grant-writing is available at [www.dol.gov/cfbci/sgabrochure.htm](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci/sgabrochure.htm).

Because at least 85% of DOL's resources for employment and training services are distributed through local government, one primary focus of CFBCI's outreach is encouraging collaboration with the nation's One-Stop Career Centers. Through materials, presentations, conferences, CFBCI educates faith-based and community organizations about the resources available. Materials that educate faith-based and community organizations about how to pursue partnerships with local One-Stop Career Centers are available on CFBCI's website under "Faith-Based and Community Information". CFBCI also helps local government administrators and officials within the One-Stop System to conduct outreach to faith-based and community organizations.

Materials designed for One-Stop operators and government administrators are available on our website under "Workforce Leader Information."

CFBCI has produced the *Touching Lives and Communities Video Training Series*. The series provides technical assistance in a number of areas, including strategic planning, board development, private and government funding, and program evaluation. This and all other materials may be ordered through our website, [www.dol.gov/cfbci](http://www.dol.gov/cfbci).





# Special Projects and Model Partnerships

## Ready4Work Initiative: A Business-Faith-Community-Criminal Justice Partnership (R4W)

Expanding the workforce. Rebuilding communities. Reducing recidivism. Restoring hope. These are the objectives of Ready4Work- a reintegration employment project that helps businesses meet employment needs in partnership with community organizations that train and mentor job-ready ex-prisoners. As a demonstration project of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, R4W creates a partnership between businesses, faith-based and community organizations, criminal justice officials, local government and the workforce investment system to improve outcomes for ex-prisoners and the communities in which they live. This combination of collaborators within the community creates a seamless path from

incarceration to employment. The faith-based and community organization (FBO/CBO) volunteer mentors assist the ex-offenders to become job-ready, so they can be referred directly to an employer. Ex-offender participants also have the opportunity to participate in job training through FBOs/CBOs or the local Workforce Investment Board. This project is currently in Jacksonville, Florida but will be expanding to other sites over the course of 2003.

*Please contact Robin McDonald, Ready4Work Project Manager, Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives for more information at [mcdonald-robin@dol.gov](mailto:mcdonald-robin@dol.gov).*

## Job Corps – Public/Private Ventures (PPV) Partnership

On February 12, 2002, Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao announced a Cooperative Agreement between PPV and Job Corps. The Cooperative Agreement set up a mutual referral and working relationship between five Job Corps Centers and five of PPV's National Faith-Based Initiative for High-Risk Youth sites. As part of the cooperative agreement, PPV will study and report on the strengths and weaknesses of the referral system and whether the additional mentoring by PPV's program impacted the outcomes for students.



# Special Projects and Model Partnerships

## Touching Lives and Communities: Memphis and Milwaukee

This Project is intended to bridge the divide between the local Workforce Investment Boards and faith-based and community groups and provide models for successful interaction between the two. The DOL CFBCI is working with two Workforce Investment Boards to integrate local faith-based and community organizations into the workforce investment system. In addition, the project is addressing any special or additional considerations for faith-based and community organizations working on employment and training for people with disabilities.

*Please contact Jacqueline Halbig, Deputy Director, Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, for more information at [halbig-jacqueline@dol.gov](mailto:halbig-jacqueline@dol.gov)*

## Grants Targeted at Increasing Partnerships with Faith-Based and Community Organizations

DOL ETA is using grant funds to help integrate faith-based and community organizations into the One-Stop Career Center system. Three types of grants were awarded to states, intermediary organizations, and small faith-based and community organizations in June 2002. The grantees work to accomplish three primary objectives:

- 1) To increase the number of faith-based and community organizations serving as committed partners in the One-Stop delivery system.
- 2) To expand the access of faith-based and community organizations' clients and customers to the services offered by the One-Stops.

- 3) To identify, document, showcase, and replicate successful instances of faith-based and community-based involvement in system building.

In June 2003, ETA will award grants to intermediary and grassroots grantees. The grantees will address a community need by bringing together One-Stop Career Center resources with those of grassroots faith-based and community organizations.

*Please contact Erica Sager, Associate Director for Outreach and Technical Assistance, Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, for more information at [sager-erica@dol.gov](mailto:sager-erica@dol.gov).*

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*Outreach Resources*

